



SUPPORTING
CONNECTING
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Aston Rowant C+E Primary School
School Lane, Aston Rowant, Oxon OX49 5SU
01844 351671 office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Helen France



24th January 2025

Message from the Head Teacher

Online Learning

I am delighted to say that at the end of the Autumn Term we saw a marked improvement in our timetables knowledge and application. We believe that this is in part due to children practising regularly on TTRS and NumBots. Whilst we completely support and respect parents wishing to limit screen time for their children we would encourage you to build these programmes into your existing regime, as we know that the children's knowledge and understanding will continue to rise accordingly.

Bird Watch

I am thrilled that Mr and Mrs Turton will be in school on Friday 14th February to lead our school bird watch as part of The National Big Bird Watch. We would love to attract a variety of birds to our grounds ahead of this. If you could support the initiative by supplying the school with some bird food (nut free) and/or bird feeders we would be very grateful.

Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How we Show Courageous Advocacy

Part of the practical outworking of a values-based education is demonstrating courageous advocacy. A courageous advocate is someone who stands up for truth and justice and acts with compassion to all.

The Church of England talks about 'courageous advocacy' - putting others needs first, even when it might be dangerous or difficult. Many Christians believe that God asks us to offer our skills, talents and abilities in the face of adversity, and that He will use that courageousness to achieve great things. A passage in the Bible, Proverbs 31:8, encourages us to 'speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable.'

The word 'courage' comes from the Latin word 'cor' = heart. At Aston Rowant CofE Primary School we encourage and champion our pupils to become courageous advocates to have a heart for everyone. not just locally, but nationally and globally. It is important for our children to appreciate their role as part of a community; to take responsibility, to be able to look after themselves and to foster an understanding of their importance, impact and influence in the world. We are advocates for those who cannot stand up for themselves, who are victims of injustice.

In life we can all face challenges and may need support to help us overcome these barriers. It is also important to recognise attitudes, cultures or situations that may need to change. We teach our children that it is important to help others when we can no matter who they are, where they come from or what challenges they may face.

We use our values to teach and encourage one another to be courageous advocates through:

- Gratitude- we advocate for others as we are grateful for the blessings we have ourselves have received from God
- Resilience - our aim is to see wrongs righted, knowing that this is not always easy or a quick fix, but being determined to try
- Outreach - we advocate for others both in school and also by reaching out to our wider communities
- Wonder – our right to speak freely and to care for others is a wonder that we don't take for granted
- Trust - we trust our understanding of right and wrong to see injustice where it exists
- Harmony - by our advocacy we bring hope to others which is inter woven in our school culture

In school we are developing the cur children's understanding of the meaning of belonging to a local and global community and therefore the sense of responsibility that comes with belonging. This in turn is developing their ability to empathise and make a small sacrifice to benefit others. Together we consider the environment, local community and the wider world and understand the actions we take, and the impact these actions may have on the well-being of everyone. Our school community and curriculum actively embrace a responsibility for the world in which we live. We are working hard to show our connection with, and care for, the world in which we all live and care for the people who live in it.

We have seen a couple of fantastic examples in recent weeks. Firstly, Max saw a need for us to be more eco-friendly and took it upon himself to fundraise for a composting bin which was installed this week. Secondly, our pyjama day. The idea came out of a conversation that I had with a group of children on Children in Need Day. A couple of children had come in onesies and we all agreed how much fun it would be to come to school in pyjamas. With my headteacher hat on I suggested that this would need to be purposeful as well as fun. The children reflected that we were lucky to have not only fabulous pyjamas (as seen this week) but also warm beds in safe homes to sleep in. They suggested having a pyjama day for a homeless charity and we settled on The Night Shelter and Wycombe Homeless Connection in High Wycombe which I have a personal connection with. I am delighted to say that we raised **£320** for this amazing cause. I would say 'the rest is history' but actually the truth is 'the rest is Aston Rowant School'. Our children did what they do - they put our values into action and modelled courageous advocacy.

Kind regards

Mrs France

GRATITUDE RESILIENCE OUTREACH WONDER TRUST HARMONY

Growing together, rooted in God, enjoying fullness of life. (Colossians 2:7)



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Teaching and Learning in the Classrooms this week:



Hedgehog Class

Our maths learning this week has continued to focus on numbers to 8. We have had a close look at the composition of these numbers; finding pairs of numbers that make up 6, 7 and 8. As well as this we have learnt about odd and even numbers and doubles. Our picture this week has been Claude Monet's *Bridge over a Pond of Waterlilies*. We learnt how to use masking and wax resist techniques to create images of the bridges. Later in the week we then used these techniques to create our own paintings. Alongside this planned learning, the children have had lots of ideas of their own. They had built castles and shields, trophies and rockets. The vets surgery has been very busy with lots of poorly and injured pets and the babies in the play house have had a good clean. We even had a triple wedding, inside the purpose built church in the building area!



Squirrel Class

Squirrels continued their learning on Percy the Park Keeper and we read a story from the series titled 'After the Storm' when the animals in the park lose their tree home in a great storm. We learnt about adverbs in our grammar lesson and then used these to apply them in our sentences about the animals rebuilding a new tree house. We also discussed emotions and feelings and used these to make inferences about the story. In maths this week we continued learning about tens and ones in Y1 and the children used place value charts and counters to make amounts up to twenty-five. Money was the focus for Y2 and we have moved onto counting notes and coins, and exploring how to make the same amount in different ways. We also continued our learning about the Great Fire of London, and we created timelines in our books with key events documented. Lastly, the class are super excited about our newest DT project of creating a fire engine! We looked at how fire engines are designed and the features they need to be useful. The children then designed their own fire engines, some with unusual features attached (ice-cream boxes!) but they all look superb! Please may I request donations of shoeboxes/cereal boxes, small yoghurt pots/plastic straws and masking tape to assist in the construction of these for the week beginning 3rd February.



Fox Class

We kick started our week learning about morphology and the history of our words are formed using affixes. Since this lesson we have been spotting prefixes and suffixes everywhere! In our English lessons, we have continued our learning about Tutankhamun and wrote posters about the 'curse' of the tomb using superlatives. We also imagined ourselves as pharaohs and what we would want in our tombs to take to the afterlife. Children had to use cause and effect conjunctions, and I had goosebumps when reading what some of them would take and why. In Maths, the Orange Group grasped the concepts of division with remainders whilst the Green Group learnt the bus stop method of division. In RE we continued looking at parables and were inspired by the Good Samaritan showing **courageous advocacy**. In History we learnt about the beliefs of the ancient Egyptians before writing about a god or goddess. In Science, we carried out a friction investigation to find out which material produced the greatest or least amount of friction. Fox Class (as usual) worked brilliantly in their groups, and it was great to hear their discussions as they predicted what would happen. We also started designing our Egyptian collars thinking about how it would showcase their personalities using the stitches learnt so far and applique. The making starts soon! In addition to all this learning (!), we also launched our search for our class Poetry Slam representative. We will vote as a class for the best delivery and content next Wednesday so get practising!



Owl Class

Owl Class became roving reporters this week as we identified and used the devices of a newspaper article, such as Headlines, By-lines, orientation paragraph and direct quotes from witnesses, before writing a 1940's set formal newspaper article about the arrival of evacuees in Devon. In History, we turned our eyes to the skies over WWII London as we learnt about the Battle of Britain, and the challenges faced by the young pilots and crews in that time: we sorted a range of primary sources to see which side had the advantage. The children were quite surprised at the way the odds were stacked against the RAF! Pyjama day was cosy and relaxed, and in keeping the night-time vibe, in Science, we learned about the phases of the lunar cycle, and memorised a way to explain if the moon is waxing or waning. We also set the children a challenge to check the moon that evening to see if they could tell which phase it was. Google also have an interactive game which the children enjoyed playing that challenges their recall of the lunar cycle; you can play here <https://g.co/doodle/q4pvrxn>. In Art, we began to expand our signs of significance to include a book theme, as part of our 'open the book' topic. What stories resonate with the children? How can they distil these into pintable images? Will they use colour or monotone to make them visually striking?

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Photo Diary of the Week



GRATITUDE

RESILIENCE

OUTREACH

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TRUST

HARMONY

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Whole School Topic - Autumn Term: Open the Book

Values: Trust

This week we looked at what it is like to standing on God's promises. We know that God's promises are true and we can always trust them. They are like a sturdy platform that we can stand on. In the Bible, God promises:

Do not fear for I am with you Isaiah 31:41

I will strengthen you I will help you, I will uphold you. Isaiah 41:10

Give all your worries to me because I care for you I Peter 5:7

He tells us that when we pray to him, we will be listened to and will receive strength when we are facing hard times. He promises us that absolutely nothing can sperate us from his love.

Climate Warriors' Challenge

Our week is often structured around driving – to work, to school, to the supermarket, to clubs – and sometimes alternatives aren't available. As children, you might feel you don't have a choice or feel your actions don't count. As **Courageous Advocates**, we believe we all have the power to make a difference! This week's challenge is to find ways to reduce carbon emissions related to your car journeys – remember avoiding them is the best option! Did you know that idling for just 30 seconds produces twice as much air pollution and wastes more fuel than switching off and restarting your engine?

Links that may be of interest:

[Climate Change Guzzle-busting crossword](#)

[Climate Change word search](#)

Book Review by Mrs Healy **The Highland Falcon** by M.G Leonard & Sam Sedgman



I love all sorts of books and I have found that over the years, children's books have got better and better and better! Which is a great thing but sadly means I struggle to read all the books I want to the class. This book sadly has not been read to Fox Class but I have read it and it's brilliant if you love adventure and like solving mysteries! It's about a boy called Harrison who goes on a train holiday with his uncle along with many other celebrities (it's the train's last journey). A precious jewel goes missing and it's down to Harrison and a new friend to try and solve the mystery before the train arrives back to London. If it's something you'd like to try, I do have a copy in the classroom, and I'd be happy to lend it. Let's keep that reading habit alive!

Happiness Calander: Happier January

How can we start this new year happier? This month, we're encouraging everyone to focus on small steps to try to boost happiness - for ourselves and others around us - to spread kindness and hopefully inspire others to do the same. You can find this month's happiness calendar [here](#).

Attendance – This week

School target 97%	97% - 100%	90% -97%	Below 90%
Hedgehog Class	92%	8%	0%
Squirrel Class	97%	3%	0%
Fox Class	96%	0%	4%
Owl Class	90%	0%	10%

Housepoints

House	This Week	Total
Bethlehem	79	172
Eden	63	151
Galilee	57	148
Jerusalem	75	185



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Emails and letters sent this Week

Date	Email/Letter	For	From	Concerning
22.01.25	Email	All	Mrs King	Primary Newsletter
22.01.25	Email	Hedgehog	Mrs France	Hedgehog Class

January	
Fri 31st	9:00 Class Rep meeting with Mrs France
Wed 29th	Fox and Owl – Mr Egypt workshop (PTA funded)
February	
3 rd – 9 th	Children’s Mental Health Week – ‘Know Yourself, Grow Yourself’
Tues 4 th	Internet Safety Day – ‘Too good to be true?’
Weds 5 th	Netball Club trial at lunchtime with Mrs Campbell
Fri 7 th	Internet Safety – Smartphone Free Childhood overview 2:50 in hall (after shorter collective worship)
Fri 7 th	KBAR Quiz – All proceeds going to school
Mon 10 th	FGB
Fri 14 th	Birdwatch
Mon 17 th – Fri 21 st	Half Term
Mon 24 th	Nurse visit for EYFS & Year 6 – Height & weight measurements plus vision screening for EYFS
Friday 28 th	Dance Club starts in Hall
March	
Wed 5 th	World Book Day – Heroes and Villains
Fri 7 th	International Women’s Day – sport for girls run by JR Sport
10 th – 14 th	National Science Week – ‘Change and Adapt’
Tues 18 th	Interhouse Cross Country
Fri 21 st	Red Nose Day – wear your jumper or cardigans back to front for a donation to Comic Relief
Thu 27 th	Fox Class – Oxford Cathedral - Spring Big Sing - ‘Courageous Advocacy’
Fri 28 th	Parents’ Book Look – 2:30pm to look through your child’s work. No Celebration Assembly.
April	
31 st – 4 th	RE Enrichment Week – What is Courageous Advocacy?
Tue 1 st / Wed 2 nd	Parents’ Evenings
Fri 4 th	9:15am Spring Service in Church

Academic Year Calendar

Spring 25	
Tue 7 th Jan – Fri 14 th Feb	Spring Term (1)
Mon 17 th – Fri 21 st Feb	HALF TERM
Mon 24 th Feb – Fri 4 th Apr	Spring Term (2)
Summer 25	
Tue 22 nd April – Thu 22 nd May	Summer Term (1)
Mon 26 th May – Fri 30 th May	HALF TERM
Mon 2 nd June – Tue 22 nd July	Summer Term (2)
Autumn 25	
Mon 1 st Sept – Thurs 23 rd Oct	Autumn Term (1)
Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st Oct	HALF TERM
Mon 3 rd Nov – Fri 19 th Dec	Autumn Term (2)

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